Gen-X-like Ultra-Light X-ray Telescope

[Draft - 07/25/11]

Name of Technology (256 char)	Thermally formed (slumped) glass mirror segments as substrates for Wolter I or Wolter-Schwarzschild **adjustable optics**	Adjustable grazing incidence x-ray optics by deposition of piezoelectric thin fim actuator layer on mirror back surface.	Mounting and alignment of **adjustable optic** mirror segments using thin film.	Figure correction control using thi film piezo adjusters for **adjustable grazing incidence optics**.
Brief description of the technology (1024)	Thermally form, to precision mandrels, thin glass sheets into Wolter I mirror substrates for adjustable optics. Includes cutting mirrors to appropriate size, and coating with x-ray reflective material. IXO-like technology as starting point.	Deposit full surface thin layer of low voltage piezoelectric material on back surface of conical mirror segment. Deposit pattern of electrodes (piezo cells) and printed leads with taps on mirror side edge for power connection.	Thousands of mirror segments need to be aligned to one another, made confocal, and mounted in a flight housing. Mounting must not distort the mirror figure.	Need the ability to connect ~ 400 separate power signals to the actuators on a single mirror, presumeably using semiconductor-like technology. Develop software for figure correction using calibrated adjuster impulse functions, either on the ground with direct optical feedback, or on-orbit using x-ray point source imaging.
Goals and Objectives (1024)	Require ~ 5 arc sec HPD performance from perfectly aligned primary-secondary mirror pair before figure correction and piezo deposition. Figure error and rouhgness requirements different from IXO-like; greater requirement on roughness and mid frequency errors which cannot be corrected by adjusters. TRL 6 by 2014 to be consistent with adjustable mirror sub-orbital flight in 2016.	Require > 1 um thick piezoelectric layer with |piezo coefficient| > ~ 5 Coulombs/sq m, leakage current < ~ 10 micro-A/sq cm. Piezo cell size ~ 1 sq cm - 2 sq cm (~ 200 to 400 per mirror segment). TRL 6 by 2018 with sub-orbital flight in 2016-2017. Piezo voltages < 50 V with minimal power consumption (i.e., micro-amp leakage current). Optimization of influence function shape by shape of piezo cell and size/shape of cell electrode and electrode pattern. This isnecessary to improve correction bandwidth and minimize introduction of pattern errors.	Require < 0.25 arc sec HPD alignment, including confocality. Mounting distortion of mirrorfigure < 2-3 arc sec HPD. TRL 6 by 2015, with several aligned mounted mirror pairs on sub-orbital demonstration flight in 2016-2017.	Piezoelectric adjuster power connections should not distort the mirrors. Control algorithms should converge reasonably rapidly. On-orbit approaches, if feasible, need to be completed in reasonable time period of five year mission (i.e., figure correction on time scale of 1 week to 1 month, max).
TRL	TRL 3: need to modify slumping process to change glass type and mandrel release layer for smoother roughness and mid frequency errors.	TRL 2: Have demnstrated deposition of piezoelectric layer on glass of sufficient thickness and high enough piezo coefficient, and have demonstrated ability to energize piezo cell and locally deform mirror in rough agreement with model predictions. Perating voltages < 20V and leakage currents of 10s of microamps.	TRL 2 - 3: Modification of IXO-like mission mirror mounting and alignment. Need to align better than IXO-like requirements, but distortion from mirror mounting is less critical (can be fixed during figure correction).	TRL 3: Semiconductor industry already bonds to hundreds of contact points at low voltage. Optimization algorithms exist. Need to demonstrate with actual computer programming. Need to demonstrate on-orbit adjustment is feasible within allotted time.
Tipping Point (100 words or less)	Demonstration of smooth mid frequency figure and roughness through use of sputtered release layer, along with sucessful slumping of high temperature glass. These will demonstrate feasibility of ultimate goals.	Repeatable high yield deposition of piezo material (with patterned electrodes) without minimal (a few microns) deposition distortions. Also, demonstration of significant lifetime when energized. Successful sounding rocket flight in 2016-2017..	Demonstration of alignment of mirror pairs from multiple shells to < 0.25 arc sec, including focus. Successful sounding rocket flight in 2016-2017.	Demonstration of correctability via software simulation.
NASA capabilities (100 words)	NASA GSFC leads in development of thermal forming and is fully equipped to continue experimentation.	NASA does not have the capability to develop this technology, but NASA funded investigators are developing the technology (SAO+PSU+MSFC)	NASA GSFC and SAO have developed alignment mounting techniques. Alternatives or similar approaches could be developed in optics industry.	NASA and many organizations have the capability to do software development. Software under development for adjustable x-ray optics at SAO.
Benefit/Ranking	Thin mirror segments enable collecting area to exceed 1 sq m with existing launch vehicles. > 10x area of Chandra.	Adjustable thin grazing incidence optics enable Chandra-like imaging or better with > 10x collecting area. Will revolutionize study of the early Universe.	Adjustable thin grazing incidence optics enable Chandra-like imaging or better with > 10x collecting area. Will revolutionize study of the early Universe.	
NASA needs/Ranking	Required for moderate to large collecting area x-ray telescopes. Required for adjustable optics x-ray telescopes with sub-arc second imaging.	Required for adjustable optics x-ray telescopes with sub-arc second imaging.	Required for moderate to large collecting area x-ray telescopes. Required for adjustable optics x-ray telescopes with sub-arc second imaging.	Required for adjustable optics x-ray telescopes with sub-arc second imaging.
Non-NASA but aerospace needs				
Non aerospace needs	Potential for synchrotron optics and x-ray lithography. Also plasma diagnostics.	Potential for synchrotron optics and x-ray lithography. Also plasma diagnostics.	Potential for synchrotron optics and x-ray lithography. Also plasma diagnostics.	Potential for synchrotron optics and x-ray lithography. Also plasma diagnostics.
Technical Risk	Moderate - significant changes between Gen-X-like requirements and IXO-like requirements, although overall performance levels are similar.	High: Current TRL is low and significant technical development necessary to achieve TRL 6 including; elimination of deposition deformations, increased deposition yield, optimization of influence function shape, demonstration of lifetime in space environment, deposition on curved mirrors.	Moderate: requires several factors improvement over currently achieved alignment levels for segmented mirrors, but difficulty is mitigated by reduced sensitivity to mirror segment deformation due to mounting by virtue of being able to correct mounting deformations during figure correction.	Low to Moderate:
Sequencing/Timing	As early as possible - "heart" of a telescope	As early as possible - the critical technology for an adjustable optic telescope, which is the critical technology for a large area sub-arc second broad band x-ray telescope.	As early as possible - "heart" of a telescope	Not critical for early demonstration, but should be resolved by 2015 for sub-orbital flight demonstration.
Time and Effort to achieve goal	3 year collaboration between NASA and industry	5 year collaboration between NASA and industry	5 year collaboration between NASA and industry	3 year collaboration between NASA and industry